



Professor Romuald Świtka in His 70th birthday

Professor Romuald Świtka was born in Poznań on 26th July 1933. In the years 1952-57 He studied at the Faculty of Civil Engineering of Poznan University of Technology. The scientific grade of doctor of technical sciences He was awarded by Cracow University of Technology in 1963. Also at the Cracow University of Technology He defended his habilitation thesis in 1968. He received the scientific title of professor in 1979.

In 1957, before receiving the diploma of Master of Science, he started to work for the Agency of Industrial Building Engineering in Poznań, where He worked till 1961. At the same time, since 1st October 1957 he was awarded a position of research assistant at Poznan University of Technology. He has worked at Poznan University of Technology for 34 years. In 1971 he became Head of the Division of Structural Mechanics, and in the same year He became Dean of the Faculty of Civil Engineering. The first years of his cadency He devoted to creation of a new course of study: architecture.

In the Division of Structural Mechanics Professor Świtka gathered around himself a group of talented young co-workers, creating a scientific team who conducted research within the Programme for Central Research Problems coordinated by the Institute of Fundamental Technological Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences (PAS). The fruits of the research done by this group were six doctoral promotions. Four of these doctors have defended their habilitation thesis and work now at the position of professor.

In 1991 Professor Świtka moved from the Poznan University of Technology to the Technical-Agricultural Academy in Bydgoszcz, where He was offered a position of full professor and became Head of the Chair of Structural Mechanics. With a new team there He gained and completed a grant from the Committee of Scientific Research (KBN).

Since 1997 Professor Świtka has worked at the Technical University of Zielona Góra, presently the University of Zielona Góra. In the years 1997-2002 He was Head of the Division of Structural Mechanics and Vice-Dean for

Science in 1999-2002, and subsequently Director of the Institute of Structural Engineering in 2002-2004.

Professor Świtka was concerned in the early stages of his scientific activity with the theory of difference equations and their application in the mechanics of discrete systems. Later on, his interests were directed to the mechanical problems of elastic bodies with discontinuous boundary conditions (dual integral equations), mechanics of regular networks and constructions on elastic foundation. In the recent years, He has concentrated his attention on the mechanics of fibre-composites. From a long list of His professional accomplishments let us recall only the main scientific achievements of Professor Świtka: development of the finite element with singularity for contact problems, method for numerical integration of equations of viscoelasticity, and elaboration of the model for fibre-composite medium and a theory of fibre-composite plates and shells. The Honoree published over 110 scientific papers and was Supervisor of 11 doctoral dissertations and Referee of 28 doctoral dissertations, 7 habilitation theses and 7 proposals for the title of professor. He was a permanent reviewer of the Polish Bibliography of Analytical Mechanics (25 published reviews), and reviewed several proposals for research project of KBN. He was awarded several times with the Minister Prize (1964, 1970, 1974, 1978, 1981, 1987, 1990) and with the Prize of Scientific Secretary of the PAS (1986). He was distinguished with the Bronze (1972) and Silver (1974) National Defense Service Medal, the Cavalier's Cross Order of Polish Revival (1979) and the Commission of National Education Medal (1993).

Professor Świtka was a member of the Section of Structural Mechanics of the Committee of Civil and Water Engineering of the PAS, the Section of Mechanics of Media with Microstructure of the PAS Committee of Mechanics, the Polish Society of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics, Scientific Committee of Polish Society of Engineers and Technicians of Building Engineering, Poznań Society of Friends of Science and others.

It is my great honour and privilege that I can count myself to both the students and doctorands of Professor Świtka. As students we greatly admired his lectures where we could observe Professor's talent, discipline and precision. Professor Świtka, on behalf of your students and collaborators, please accept our words of appreciation for the hard work you have done for all of us. Let this collection of papers dedicated to you be merely a slight demonstration of our gratitude. Happy Birthday and many happy returns. We wish you a good health and the energy you have had so far; you will still need it.

Mieczysław Kuczma